Plan for socio-economic progress of disabled in Maharashtra

1096. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering or have considered any plan for socio-economic progress of blind, deaf, dumb and disabled persons in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of such persons in Maharashtra, category-wise; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below)

(b) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) conducted a National Sample Survey 47th round; July-December, 1991 to collect information on the number of persons with disabilities. The estimate number of persons with disabilities category-wise in Maharashtra are as follows:

Locomotor Disability	911000
Speech Disability	176000
Hearing Disability	328000
Visual Disability	350000

(The estimated number of disabled persons is obtained by applying survey-based proportions to projected census population).

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Plan for Socio-Economic Progress of Disabled in Maharashtra

The Government of India is already implementing a number of programmes for socio-economic progress of persons with disabilities all over the country including Maharashtra. The details of schemes are as follows:

(i) The Ministry is implementing a Scheme to promote Voluntary Action for persons with disabilities under which Voluntary Organisations are being assisted for providing, *inter-alia*, education and vocational training to persons with disabilities.

(ii) There are 17 vocational rehabilitation centres for persons with disabilities controlled and administered by Ministry of Labour located in all over India. One such centres is located in Mumbai.

(iii) A National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) is providing opportunities for skill development and loan assistance on easy terms to the persons with disabilities to set up Self- Employment ventures.

(iv) In order to affectively deal with multi-dimensional problem of the handicapped population, the Ministry has set up Four National Institutes which are Apex level organisations in the field of training, vocational guidance, rehabilitation etc. Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped is located in Mumbai.

(v) District Rehabilitation Centre scheme was started during 1985 to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to rural disabled right at their doorsteps. One of the centres is located in Virar, Maharashtra.

(vi) Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of Handicapped, financial assistance to tune of 80% is being given to State Government for setting up of Special Employment Exchanges and upgradation of Special Cells to Special Employment Exchanges.

(vii) Under the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, three Districts of Maharashtra have been covered where the District Centres are being set up to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities.

(viii) A total of 107 Districts have been selected all over the country, out of which six Centers are identified in Maharashtra, where District Centres are being set up. These centers will provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities to enable them to become self-reliant and productive.

Representation regarding central aid for implementation of Disabilities Act, 1995 from Kerala

1097. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Kerala has submitted any representation regarding Central aid for the implementation of the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken in this regard?